









A very fair start. Chioffain broke away, followed by Merry Monarch, Tom Colleigh and Sahab. Rounding the bend Sahab led, followed by Tom Colleigh, and Merry Monarch. Going up the incline King Ben assumed the lead, followed by Sahab. Sol afterwards took second place, and challenged King Ben without success. Entering the straight King Ben still led, followed by Magic Dahlia. King Ben kept his lead in the home straight, followed closely by Sol and Tom Colleigh, and won by three-quarters of a length. Half-a-length separated second and third.

Time, 2min. 23secs.  
Fastest time, 2min. 15.3-secs.

THE "BLACK ROCK" STAKES.—Winner \$200. Second \$200. Third \$100. For China ponies *hand fed* griffins on date of entry. Weight for miles as per scales. Winners of one race 5 lb.; of two or more races 7 lb. extra. One mile and a quarter.

Mr. John Peil's Jacobite, 11st 1lb (Mr. Johnstone) 1  
Sir Paul's Advance Dahlia, 11st 6lb (Mr. Moller) 2  
Mr. Ellis Kadoorie's Formosa Chief, 11st 1lb (Mr. Ezra) 3  
Mr. Henry Humphreys' Tittle Mouse, 10st 9lb (Mr. Keoll) 0  
Messrs. Logan and Basto's Glorious Pearl, 10st 9lb (Mr. Seth) 0  
Mr. H. P. White's Mansur, 11st 1lb (Mr. Heard) 0

Par-Mutuel. Cash sweep.  
Winner: \$11.20 Ticket No.  
1. 6.50 427. \$2,376.93  
2. 1.70 660. 679.12  
3. 0.60 453. 339.57

The following numbers drew runners:—170, 113, and 683.

It was a bad start. Tittle Mouse being left at the post. Mansur took the lead, Glorious Pearl being second, Formosa Chief third, and Advance Dahlia last. At the back stretch Mansur still led from Glorious Pearl. The same order was maintained past Bowrington Gate. Advance Dahlia still being last. Tittle Mouse had been improving his position, and drew level with Formosa Chief in third place. Glorious Pearl also drew level with Mansur at the Rock. Glorious Pearl was first coming down the incline, and was challenged by Formosa Chief, who came into first place at the bend, with Glorious Pearl close at his heels. Round the bend Formosa Chief maintained his lead, and in the home straight Jacobite took the lead, and a struggle ensued between him and Advance Dahlia for the first place, which was retained by Jacobite, who passed the winning post three-quarters of a length in front. Half-a-length between second and third.

Time, 2min. 20.1-secs.  
Fastest time, 2min. 33.2-secs.

THE GYMNASIA CLUB CUP.—Presented by the Members of the Gymnasium Club. Value \$500 to winner. Second to receive \$200. Third \$100. For all China ponies that have started for Races in at least two gymnasiums during 1916 season and subscription griffins of this season 1916-1917. Weight 10st 5lb. Winners of any race other than races confined to subscription griffins 7lb.; of a subscription griffin race 2lb. extra. Subscription griffin of this season 1916-1917 allowed 7lb. Winners at this meeting barred. Jockeys who have never had a winning mount in Hongkong, Shanghai, or Tientsin allowed 5lb. Allowances accumulative. Three quarters of a mile.

Mr. Charles Hush Hush, 10st 6lb (Mr. Heard) 1  
Messrs. Beith & Ross' Mo, 10st 2lb (Mr. Johnstone) 2  
Mr. A. R. Lowe's Brown Jess, 10st 1lb (Mr. Sedgwick) 3  
Mr. Adam's Hang On, 9st 10lb (Mr. Adams) 0  
Mr. Barady's Peter Doozy, 10st 7lb (Mr. Barton) 0  
Mr. Cottager's Ploughedfield, 10st 8lb (Mr. Seth) 0  
Mr. Coahed's Matchbox, 10st 10lb (Mr. Ezra) 0  
Mr. Coahed's Moneybox, 10st 1lb (Mr. Boyd) 0  
Mr. Horsford's Crosby, 10st 10lb (Mr. Keoll) 0  
Mr. Soares' Khakilini, 10st 1lb (Mr. Case) 0  
Mr. Staves' Sangala, 10st 1lb (Mr. Hayes) 0  
Mr. Yale's Old King Cole, 10st 8lb (Mr. Fisher) 0

Par-Mutuel. Cash Sweep.  
Winners: \$36.10 Ticket No.  
1. 10.10 89. \$2,399.25  
2. 6.30 1. 685.50  
3. 10.90 718. 342.75

The following numbers drew runners:—40, 694, 294, 217, 673, 494, 749, 687, 393.

The waiting light made it difficult to follow the movements of the horses in this race. The ultimate winner, Hush Hush, led almost from the start, the ponies striding out beautifully coming round past the village. In the straight there was a terrific struggle for first place between Hush Hush and Mo, the former eventually winning by a length and a half. A neck between second and third.

Time, 1min. 35-secs.  
Fastest time, 1min. 29.2/5-secs.

#### TODAY'S SELECTIONS.

BACK SELECTIONS.  
Champion Stakes. Silver Streak or Triumph.  
Grand Stand Stakes. Mr. Ezra's selected, Mr. Johnstone's Mount.  
Great Southern Stakes. Chioffain or Trojan.  
Hongkong Stakes. Mr. John Peil's selected.  
Ladies' Purse. Golofina.  
American Cup. Brown Mouse or Capilana.  
Phoenix Stakes. Iron Duke.  
Rip-to Stakes. Drumlog.  
Consolation Stakes. Golofina.  
N°1 Desperandum Stakes. Mr. Soares' selected.

#### COMPANY REPORT.

##### HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO., LTD.

The report of the General Managers (Messrs. Shawan, Tomes & Co.) for presentation to the shareholders, at the thirty-third ordinary general meeting on March 10th, is as follows:—

Annexed we have the pleasure to lay before shareholders a statement of accounts made up to 31st December, 1916.

The balance at Credit of Profit and Loss Account, after allowing for the Interim Dividend of \$60,000 paid in August last and including the balance of \$41,804.94 brought forward from 1915, is \$220,691.71, which it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

To place to reserve fund.....\$63,738.50  
To pay a final dividend of \$1 per share.....60,000.00  
To pay a bonus of \$1 per share.....60,000.00  
To pay a bonus to staff at factory.....3,408.00  
To carry forward to the credit of next year's account.....43,547.91  
All investments have now been valued at cost, and the resulting appreciation (\$26,263.50) transferred to Reserve Fund, raising it to \$178,263.50.

Consulting Committee.—Since the last Annual Meeting, Mr. D. W. Craddock resigned and Messrs. J. H. Wallace and A. H. Skelton joined the Consulting Committee.

In accordance with the Articles of Association Dr. J. W. Noble and Messrs. H. P. White, J. H. Wallace and A. H. Skelton retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

##### HONGKONG TRAMWAY CO., LTD.

The approximate statement of traffic receipts for the week ending 24th February is as follows:—

	Receipts for week	Aggregate for 8 weeks
This Year.....	\$12,551	\$106,769
Last Year.....	20,422	105,104
Increase.....	7,871	1,665
Decrease.....	7,871	—

#### SHIPPING NEWS.

##### WRECK OF THE S.S. "KWONG TAI."

When the s.s. *Sai Nam* was approaching the Siu Siang Gorge, seven miles above Shui Hing, just after midnight on Feb. 22nd, Capt. T. Donaldson, the master, was called to the bridge by the 2nd pilot, who reported hearing four blasts of a steamer's whistle repeated twice with a short interval between.

At first a white light was seen, followed for a short space by a red light, after which all disappeared. A little later cries of "Save life! *Kwong Tai* has sunk!" were heard. The ship was brought to a standstill, and through the gloom several people were observed in the water. Numerous lifebuoys and lifebelts were thrown to them, and a boat was lowered to search in the vicinity. The gloom and darkness, owing to the atmosphere and the shadows cast by the surrounding mountains was so dense that objects could only be seen a few yards off.

At 12.45 a.m. the *Sai Nam* fired distress signals and blew her whistle to the escort stern, T.B. *Loi Lee*, which with great seeming reluctance came slowly to the rescue, and, when acquainted with the situation, proceeded to render assistance. Later the s.s. *San Yi* was sighted coming down the gorge, and her assistance was enlisted. She rounded to and lowered a boat. Later on the s.s. *Sun On* and s.s. *Shui Hing* arrived on the scene.

The *Sai Nam* took on board 33 survivors, and when no more could be found, left the scene of accident at 2.5 a.m. Soundings were made in several places but failed to get bottom at 15 fms. The weather was calm and the current slight.

A report from Sam Shui gives the following survivors:—s.s. *San Yi*, 53 taken off the shore; s.s. *Sai Nam*, 33, 21 taken from the water; T.B. *Loi Lee*, 8 taken from the water; a native launch, 5 taken from the shore.

#### MORE GERMAN PLUNDERING.

Quartermaster-General von Schwartzkoppen has issued a proclamation from the Great Headquarters in the North of France stating that all money, documents, and valuable objects in the Departments of the Somme, the Aisne, and the Oise whose owners are unknown will be compulsorily sequestered.

#### CANTON NOTES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

CANTON, February 25th.  
SILVER COINS SMUGGLED OUT OF THE CITY.

It is reported that there are more than ten persons in the habit of exporting from the city silver coins to a total of about a thousand dollars daily. The native banks are complaining that if the local authorities do not stop the practice, which is carried out with great ingenuity, it will have a serious effect on business.

Two days ago, when the Civil Governor paid a visit to Shamene on official business, he passed Tai Hong How, south suburb, and saw some coolies gambling in a sedan-chair house. He stopped and ordered the police to arrest the gamblers, who were playing cards. His Excellency himself tore the paper cards into pieces. The Police-station in charge of the district has been neglectful in this matter, and the chief will, therefore, be dealt with.

THE RESTRICTIONS ON RIVER TRAFFIC.  
When General Lung Chai-kwong was seated in Canton, steamers were not allowed to enter the Canton River until 6 o'clock in the morning owing to the state of martial law which prevailed. The British Consul has now requested the local Government to cancel this regulation, as it causes great loss and inconvenience.

VISIT BY AMERICAN COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS.

An American commercial travelling party arrived here on the 21st instant by special train from Kowloon. They were met at the Railway Station by the American Consul and Mr. Liang Lan-hsuan, Commissioner of Foreign Affairs. They were entertained by the local Governors at the Western Hotel and Yamen that day, the company which assembled to meet them including local gentry and prominent merchants. Speeches were delivered on the subject of the commercial interests existing between China and America. The party left on the 22nd instant by s.s. *Kinslan*.

#### CHINESE NEWS.

##### NEW MEASURES.

The Chinese shops in Peking began to use measures of the new standard set by the Government. As the foot of the new standard is a little shorter than that of the old, the shops have made a corresponding reduction in the price of their goods. The new measures were distributed to the different shops by the Chamber of Commerce under instruction from the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, which aims at the unification and standardization of weights and measures in the country through the use of the new system.

##### COAST DEFENCE.

The Chinese Government has appointed several naval officers to attend to the affairs relating to coast defence. Special precautionary measures are being carried out at the following forts:—Taku in Chihli; Woosung, Huangshan, Siangshan, and Taioosan in Kiangsu; Liangshan in Anhwei; Siangshanwan in Chekiang; and Humen in Kwangtung.

##### SALT SURPLUS.

The Group Banks has agreed to hand over the surplus salt revenue for the month of January to the Chinese Government. The amount is \$4,500,000. The Ministry of Finance intends to use this money to meet the payments to the troops and other administrative expenditure.

#### HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

THE LATE STAFF INSPECTOR REWITT.  
The funeral will take place early this morning (Wednesday, February 28th). All ranks attending will parade at the junction of Morrison Hill Road and Leighton Hill Road (outside the Police Recreation Club) at 7.45 a.m. sharp. Uniform with helmets and spikes. Super and 14-spectors in possession of belts and swords will wear same.

MUSKETRY COURSE, 1917, PART II.  
Members of No. 2 Company qualified to fire Part II. of the above course will attend the Range on Sunday, March 11th, and not on Sunday, March 4th.

POLICE SCHOOL.  
Members of Classes I., II., and III. will attend at Queen's College at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6th, for examination.

ROUTE MARCH.  
All ranks (except Recruits) of Nos. 3 and 4 Companies, Ambulance Platoon, and Buglers and Drummers will parade at Central Station at 5.30 p.m. sharp on Friday, March 2nd. Uniform with helmets and rifles.

HAND AND ORCHESTRA.  
The following practices are ordered for March:—  
Band—March 2nd, 7th, 14th, 20th.  
Orchestra—March 3rd, 10th, 26th.  
(Sgd.) F. C. JERVIS, D.S.P. (K).

#### TEXTILE TRADE OF JAPAN.

BLESSING BROUGHT BY THE WAR.

After the outbreak of the war the exports of textiles from Japan steadily increased, and last year amounted in value to about ¥60,000,000, as against ¥38,400,000 for the year preceding. Upon the turn of the year orders continued to come in, but later ceased abruptly, reports the *Japan Chronicle*.

From China there are only small orders for raw silk, while business has practically been suspended in sheetings and drills with the completion of the shipments for January. From India orders have been suspended practically altogether, and it is not expected that business will revive for a month or so. The exact reason for the set-back is not known, but it is believed to be due to the fact that Japanese prices are higher than Indian and Chinese prices by about 10 per cent. This fact is attributed to speculative transactions on the domestic (Japan) market.

It is said that following the rupture of diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany, 20,000 or 30,000 bales have daily changed hands in speculative transactions. According to the *Osaka Asahi*, the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha sold about 30,000 bales on the announcement of the American-German break, and then bought 15,000 bales at a profit, subsequently again selling about 4,000 bales. The Yamasa, Shoten, and some others of the first-class Osaka merchants, such as the Koshi and the Shima Shoten, are also said to be very active in speculative transactions in cotton textiles.

ON THE ENGLISH MARKET.  
On one or two occasions, very widely separated, Japanese goods have been sold on the English market, said a writer in the *Financial Review* (London) recently. "About a year after war broke out our own mills were so busy that they could not supply the demand, and both Japanese yarns and pieces were imported, the former being hosiery counts in Botany qualities, and the latter union cloths. No big weights were imported, and to all appearances it was a similar kind of trade, both in size and duration, to that which American did with us in the past. Neither of them lasted long, but they called the attention of England's textile trade to what our competitors are doing."

Japan's textile industries are among those that have prospered most during this war, continues the financial journal. The struggle in the West has brought great wealth to the trades of the East, and the textile trade is one of the most important in Japan. Russia has bought big quantities of khaki there, and the only serious obstacle to far more being placed was, and is, the inability of Japanese merchants to grant any credit to speak of. Russia has floated loans there to pay for goods, but does not look too favourably upon this method of payment. New mills have been set up in Japan, and several have combined to send an English textile expert home to buy scouring, combing and spinning plants. His difficulty has been to get delivery in anything like reasonable time, and for that reason a good part of the orders may be placed in America.

"NOW'S THE TIME."  
The purchase of this new machinery means that Japan has money, thinks the textile trade worth investing in, and sees extended markets that she can capture. She also knows that "now's the time," while all serious competitors are busy otherwise. For some years her buyers have made themselves felt in Australian wool markets, and have practically employed the Japanese imports increased by about one-third, cotton and wool being the chief goods concerned. The manufacture of hosiery, which is largely carried on in Japan, has been hit by the British Government's decree prohibiting the import of hosiery into England, most of this Japanese hosiery being of cotton. Manufacturers and dealers have mass meetings of protest in Osaka and Tokio and got into touch with our Foreign Office through their Ambassador in London. They succeeded in getting the prohibition put off till January 1st, though it should have started in November.

WHERE ENGLISH GOODS EXCEL.  
An industry that will go as far as that after trade and so promptly, is one that is difficult for business, and means to get it. What would English mills have done in a similar circumstance? How long would it have taken them to make our Foreign Office act? Besides looking to our industrial efficiency in the textile trade, we shall have to look after our national efficiency in consular service and Ambassadors, and as the Chambers of Commerce of England lately recommended, have our business interests in foreign lands in the care of business men who know the people and the language, not Oxford men with a degree in classics and 2400 a year private income.

The market Japan is looking towards most longingly is China, whom she is hoping to supply with all her wants of cotton and wool goods, and a good deal more besides. Some merchants in Bradford, and in Leeds and Manchester too, say there is not much probability of Japan driving out the Western manufacturer from his trade in either China or India, for the simple reason that her mills have not yet learnt to make as many fabrics, or as good, as we have. On cheap goods, Japan is very strong, but on better articles has to give in to England and France every time.

#### UBOAT'S S.O.S. TRAP.

The German sea piracy with submarines is daily discovering lower depths of infamy in which to exercise itself. The *Telegraph* reports, on the testimony of an officer of a large Dutch liner coming from the Dutch Indies, that when in the Bay of Biney he received an S.O.S. wireless call, to which he immediately responded, going at full speed to the place indicated in the signal.

On arriving there he found a German submarine, which was not in distress. The submarine's captain said he was sorry that a Dutch boat and not an English one had come in reply to his call, adding: "We do not want you to save our souls; we want the English to save our souls."

#### INTIMATIONS

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WHITE WOOL TAFFETA, LONG CLOTH, ZEPHYR,

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Has a fine mild flavour and a refreshing clean taste.

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## SMART DAY

AND

## EVENING GOWNS

AT

SPECIAL PRICES THIS WEEK  
TO CLEAR  
BEFORE STOCKTAKING.







# THE WAR.

## IMPORTANT BRITISH ADVANCES ON WESTERN FRONT AND IN MESOPOTAMIA.

### PRESIDENT WILSON ON SUBMARINISM.

### BRITISH BREAD REGULATIONS.

### CUNARD LINER SUNK.

#### Franco-Belgian Front.

##### LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

#### IMPORTANT GERMAN RETIREMENT. ENEMY RETREAT TWO MILES.

LONDON, February 26th.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, in a communique, says:—Our advance has been maintained and now extends to an eleven mile front, from the east of Guedecourt to the south of Gommecourt, with a depth of two miles. We occupy Butte de Warlencourt and the villages of Warlencourt, Eaucourt, Pys, Misamont, and have reached the outskirts of Le Barque, Ixles, and Puisieux Amont.

We repulsed, with loss to the enemy, an attack on a British post on the south bank of the Somme, and successfully raided the neighbourhoods of Arras, Monchy-au-Bois, and Lens.

##### EARLIER CABLES.

LONDON, February 26th.

Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters telegraphs:—A patrol on Saturday morning first discovered the retirement of the German line in the Ancre Valley. This is unquestionably due to the recent British intolerable pressure. The first intimation that anything unwanted had occurred was early on February 23rd, when a number of fires were observed to break out in the enemy's lines in front of Pys, due to the deliberate firing of dug-outs.

The correspondent compares the advance movements in the afternoon with the busiest days of the great Somme push. The extreme depth to which the German retreat has been carried is reported to be three miles. We have occupied Miraumont, Miraumont le Petit, Pys and Serre, without meeting obstinate resistance. The Germans employed obstructive tactics, but there was no fighting.

#### NEW GROUND SECURED WITHOUT LOSS OF LIFE.

In rearward actions yesterday evening we advanced from Warlencourt and Ixles towards Miraumont, on the enemy's heels. This line has now been established. We gained a large tract of country without loss of life and the new ground has not been ploughed up by shell-fire for the resumption of the battle.

##### BAPAUME NEXT.

There is an unconfirmed report to the effect that the enemy is evacuating the great strategic point at Bapaume, where explosions and fires were observed to be taking place.

##### FRENCH FRONT.

#### EFFECTIVE ARTILLERY FIRE.

LONDON, February 26th.

A French communique states:—Our artillery was effectively active in the region of Morchomme. There was intermittent artillery firing in Lorraine and in the Vosges.

#### SUCCESSFUL RAID ON GERMAN LINES.

LONDON, February 26th.

A French communique says:—We raided the German line near Ville-sur-Tourbe, destroyed many dug-outs and brought back prisoners and material.

An enemy coup de main, north-east of Soissons and west of Avocourt, failed. We made prisoners.

Three enemy aeroplanes were brought down and our air squadrons heavily bombed bivouacs and a munitions depot near Spincourt (where there were many explosions), and also airfields at Bazancy and railway stations in the region of Wissembourg.

#### THE BRITISH ADVANCE.

##### PRESENT POSITION DESCRIBED.

LONDON, February 26th.

Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters describes the German obstructive tactics—the posting of machine-guns and teams of snipers at various vantage points of our line of pursuit—but says there was definite resistance at one point only, namely, the hill commanding the Boom ravine, in the direction of Miraumont.

The capture of Serre gives the British a most important dominating position for further operations. The famous Butte de Warlencourt is also occupied. This is a sort of German field Gibraltar, having been fought over inch by inch, lost and re-taken. Round it are the bones of more soldiers than are to be found in almost any outlying position.

Owing to the mist, the general advance was made only after the patrols had established touch with the enemy. These were surprised at the unusual quiet, and thought the enemy was practising a trap, but, realising the real situation, they swept forward most cautiously.

The fog was most advantageous to the enemy in shielding his retirement from our aeroplanes, while the frost of the preceding days had enabled him to withdraw most of the guns. He left a few to make a show of firing, and an unwanted quantity of ammunition, for the simple reason that there was no time to move the shells.

British patrols are still out in every direction, and, until they have reported, it is impossible to say where the Germans will make their stand; but undoubtedly they have many carefully-prepared positions in their rear, and the Bapaume ridge is the most probable. The fact that the enemy is strategically retreating from strongholds which we expected to win only by fighting heavily, reveals a new phase of his defensive weakness.

The Boom ravine was the scene of desperate fighting on February 17th, when the British attacked in the darkness and fog. One battalion was especially tried. It lost all its officers, but the sergeant-major led the men. Finding a gap in the enemy wire, they captured the Grandcourt trench and entered a deep ravine, which presented an awful sight of smashed trees and mangled dead, the result of the British cannonade.

##### GERMAN REPORT.

LONDON, February 26th.

A Berlin official message says:—Our anti-aircraft guns brought down a French airship above Metz, on the night of the twenty-third. Her cargo of bombs exploded when she touched the ground, and her crew of fourteen was killed. The details of the construction of the airship are easily recognisable from the remnants.

##### Italian Front.

##### LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

#### ITALIAN OPERATIONS.

##### SUCCESSFUL AERIAL BOMBARD- MENT.

LONDON, February 26th.

An Italian official report states:—We drove back and dispersed enemy detachments south-east of Gorizia.

Two of our airships successfully dropped 24 tons of high explosives on the railway station at Rifemborgo and an aviation ground.

We made progress on the north of Trieste.

#### Naval Activities.

##### LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

#### ANOTHER ATTACK ON ENGLISH COAST.

##### WOMAN AND CHILD KILLED.

LONDON, February 26th.

In the House of Commons, Sir Edward Carson announced that German destroyers bombarded Broadstairs and Margate in the early morning. A woman and a child were killed, two persons injured, and two houses damaged.

##### A DOZEN SHELLS.

LONDON, February 26th.

Unofficial details show that in the bombardment a dozen shells fell on the coast. All the casualties were in a village. A shell also dropped in a town four miles away.

##### ADDITIONAL DETAILS.

LONDON, February 26th.

In the House of Commons, Sir Edward Carson stated that a patrol of our destroyers, between 11 and 12 o'clock last night, encountered various enemy destroyers and was engaged for some time, being under heavy fire from guns and torpedoes. Our destroyers were undamaged. The effect on the enemy could not be ascertained, owing to the darkness.

Another force of destroyers bombarded, for a quarter of an hour, the undefended towns of Broadstairs and Margate. As soon as the firing was heard, our forces in the vicinity closed in on the enemy who had withdrawn before our men arrived.

#### AMERICAN STEAMER'S ACHIEVEMENT.

PARIS, February 27th.

The American steamer *Oreana*, from New York, has entered the Gironde.

##### EARLIER CABLES.

#### THE DUTCH SINKINGS.

##### PUTTING BLAME ON BRITAIN.

AMSTERDAM, February 26th.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam, the German Legation's explanation of the recent torpedoing of Dutch ships blames Britain for the inability of Dutch ships to utilise the opportunity to depart from England as offered by the Germans, extending the time limit to midnight of February 10th.

##### BRITAIN BLAMELESS.

LONDON, February 26th.

The Rotterdam correspondent of the *Handelsblad* states that the German Naval Attaché at The Hague communicated the offer to the Dutch shipowners at seven in the evening of February 10th, when it was too late to give the necessary instructions to Dutch ships in England. Thus the concession was useless, and Britain was blameless.

##### NARROW ESCAPES.

AMSTERDAM, February 26th.

An official Berlin message, recapitulating the excuses mentioned on February 25th, mentions that the orders of thirty-three Dutch ships, including twenty laden with corn for the Dutch Government, asked Germany for permission to leave Falmouth and Dartmouth. Eighteen undertook to sail, but apparently only eight took the risk.

##### THE SUBMARINE PIRATE.

LONDON, February 26th.

According to Reuter, it is stated in Dutch circles that it was the *U-5* which attacked the Dutch steamers, torpedoing and sinking three and placing bombs on others.

The *Alcedo* was rescued by a British trawler and towed into harbour. The whereabouts of the others is unknown. The crews were towed to the Scilly Isles, it being thought that their ships had been sunk.

Eleven other Dutch ships were ordered by their owners to set sail simultaneously, but fortunately they had not cleared.

##### AN OFFICER'S ACCOUNT.

LONDON, February 26th.

A Dutch officer, interviewed in London, said the submarine fired an aerial torpedo and then fired shells till the ships stopped. She then ordered the crews to their boats within five minutes, saying she would sink the steamers because they were in British waters. They barely had time to escape.

#### CUNARD LINER SUNK.

##### 270 PERSONS SAVED.

LONDON, February 26th.

The Cunard liner *Laconia*, 18,000 tons, bound from New York to Liverpool, has been sunk.

##### LATER.

The *Laconia* was torpedoed without warning.

Two hundred and seventy persons, including passengers, were saved from the *Laconia*.

[The *Laconia* was built in 1911 at Newcastle, by Swan and Hunter. Her registered tonnage was 18,160.]

#### THE "U 30" INTERNED.

FLUSHING, February 26th.

The *U 30* has been disarmed and is to be interned.

#### GERMANY'S ADVICE TO BRAZIL.

LONDON, February 26th.

Reuter's correspondent at Rio de Janeiro says that Germany has informed the Brazilian Minister in Berlin that the decision to maintain the submarine blockade is unalterable. He suggests that Brazil should have recourse to diplomacy if Brazilian ships are sunk.

#### The Balkans.

##### EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

#### GERMAN REPORT.

LONDON, February 26th.

A wireless German official message says:—French attacks were unsuccessful south of Cernay. The enemy yesterday lost eight aeroplanes.

#### CONCESSION TO GREECE.

LONDON, February 26th.

Reuter learns that the Allies are permitting certain cargoes of grain to enter Greek ports in order to relieve the more pressing necessities of the Greeks, but the blockade will not be raised till General Sarrail's flank is completely secure.

#### The Near East.

##### EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

#### BRITISH SUCCESS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

##### KUT EVACUATED BY THE TURKS.

LONDON, February 26th.

A Turkish communique admits the evacuation of Kut, "according to a pre-arranged plan and in order to effect a junction with reinforcements."

LONDON, February 26th.

In the House of Commons Mr. Bonar Law announced that, as a result of operations in Mesopotamia, the whole enemy position between Samarra and Kut el Amara has been secured, and that Kut el Amara passes automatically into our hands.

#### ENEMY IN FULL RETREAT.

LONDON, February 26th.

A Mesopotamia official message states:—Early on Saturday, we captured a ridge across the neck of the Shumnah Peninsula and it became evident that the enemy was in full retreat in the direction of Baghailah. To the west of Kut el Amara, many Turkish depots and stores were seized. A strong force of infantry and cavalry was heavily engaged all day long, inflicting severe casualties.

In the meantime, we pursued our successes on the Samarra position and captured the fifth Turkish line, the Nakhalah and Suwaida positions, and reached the Ataba marsh and Magazis line. Aeroplanes co-operated invaluable by bombing and machine-gunning at minimum altitude.

In two days we took 1,730 prisoners. The whole of the enemy's positions from Samarra to Kut el Amara are thus secured—Kut passing automatically into our hands. The full Turkish losses are as yet unknown.

#### Russian Front.

##### EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

#### GERMAN REPORT.

LONDON, February 26th.

We repulsed the Russians to westward of the Az and south of Brzezany. Strong Russian attacks north of the Tartar Pass failed.

#### RUSSIAN SUCCESSES.

##### TURKS DISPERSED.

LONDON, February 26th.

A Russian official wireless message states:—Reconnoitring parties penetrated the enemy's trenches to the west of Jablonitz.

Scouts dispersed Turks on the western bank of Lake Van, inflicting heavy losses.

##### General.

##### LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

#### AMERICA AND GERMANY.

##### THE REAL AMERICAN SPIRIT.

Ex-President Taft, Mr. J. H. Choate and numerous other prominent Americans have issued a manifesto stating that the majority of Americans who favour action at present are silent, not wishing to embarrass President Wilson, therefore the small number of Pacifists are creating a wrong impression of the nation's spirit. They urge Americans to join the movement for immediate action, instead of waiting for the murder of more Americans before entering on war.

##### STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT WILSON.

WASHINGTON, February 26th.

In the Congress, President Wilson asked authority to establish "armed neutrality." He stated that the Government had made full plans to protect American ships in the German war zone, and pointed out that while they desired peace there was something greater than peace, namely, protection of the rights of Americans, and the upholding of the rights of American ships to sail the seas unmolested.

In the course of his weighty and outspoken review of the submarine situation, President Wilson said he feared that none of the neutral nations who had been asked to co-operate to prevent submarine depredations thought it wise to join in common action. American commerce was suffering more in apprehension than in fact, ships timidly keeping to home ports. He dwelt on the most serious and growing congestion arising from this policy, which in itself might accomplish the German aim. He characterised the sinking of the *Lynnhaven* as disclosing a ruthlessness of method deserving great condemnation. He laid stress on the indications and expressions of "purpose" by the German Press and authorities, which increased the impression that the future sparing of American ships and people was likely to be more due to unexpected discretion and restraint on the part of submarine commanders or fortunate circumstances than the carrying out of instructions.

#### DEFENSIVE ARMS FOR AMERICAN SHIPS.

WASHINGTON, February 27th.

President Wilson has requested Congress to authorise the supply of merchant ships with defensive arms and also adequate means of protection, including war risks and insurance.

##### EARLIER CABLES.

#### THE PROPOSAL TO USE U.S. ARMED FORCES.

LONDON, February 26th.

A message from Washington states that the Republican resolution in the Senate, authorising President Wilson to use the armed forces of the United States in order to protect the commerce, property and lives of Americans, was not adopted, but was referred to the Foreign Relations Committee, thus being shelved, after a furious debate in which the Republicans attacked the President for hesitation to act.

The Republicans are apparently trying to force an extra Session of the Senate in order to prevent President Wilson from fully controlling the situation as regards Germany.

#### INDIAN PRINCE VISITS CAIRO.

PORT SAID, February 25th.

The Maharaja of Bikanir arrived here and proceeded to Cairo, where he proposed to stay for a week.

#### LATEST CABLES.

#### THE WAR LOAN. INTERESTING DETAILS.

LONDON, February 26th.

Mr. Bonar Law, in the course of his statement on the War Loan, said the converted Treasury bills amounted to £130,000,000. He pointed out that the number of subscribers was, approximately, 5,239,000, and emphasised that while the German Loans successively decreased ours increased. The cost of floating the Loan, including advertising, was only £75,000. The success of the Loan was due to the patriotism of the people, evidenced in the will and financial ability of the country to win the war.

##### EARLIER CABLES.

#### THE FINAL FIGURES.

LONDON, February 26th.

In the House of Commons Mr. Bonar Law made a final statement as to receipts in connection with the Loan. He announced that the total of new money, including Treasury Bills converted, amounted to £1,000,312,850. (Loud cheers.)

##### LATEST CABLES.

#### IRISH AFFAIRS.

##### REVIVAL OF CONSPIRACY.

LONDON, February 27th.

Mr. Duke, K.C., in the House of Commons, speaking on the Motion for Adjournment of the House, said the great majority of those arrested during the late rebellion in Ireland and kept as prisoners had, since their release, busied themselves in reviving the conspiracy. He declared that it was inadvisable to enter into details. Inspector-General Bryan Mahon, of the Irish Constabulary, had accepted responsibility for what had been done.

##### EARLIER CABLES.

LONDON, February 26th.

In the House of Commons, in reply to Mr. John Dillon, Mr. Duke stated that twenty-eight persons had been arrested in Ireland under the Defence of the Realm Act, on suspicion of acting prejudicially to the public safety. It was not proposed to try them, but they had been prohibited from residing in Ireland.

Mr. Dillon gave notice that he would move the adjournment thereon.

##### LATEST CABLES.

#### WAR MEDIATION.

##### REPORTED PROPOSAL FROM ARGENTINA.

BUENOS AIRES, February 26th.

It is reported that Argentina has initiated negotiation with the Latin American Republics with a view to jointly offering mediation.

#### BRITISH BREAD.

##### REGULATIONS AS TO WEIGHT, QUALITY AND AGE.

LONDON, February 26th.

The Press Bureau reports that Lord Devonport has notified that bread must be sold in loaves weighing one pound or an even number of pounds; must be twelve hours old and not exchanged for old bread previously sold; must not contain currants, sultanas, milk or sugar. Inspectors are authorised to weigh on the premises or in course of delivery. Rolls must weigh two ounces.

##### EARLIER CABLES.

#### RATIONS OF GERMAN PRISONERS.

##### NEW SCALE ADOPTED.

LONDON, February 26th.

Lord Devonport has approved a new scale of rations to German prisoners of war and those interned, involving a reduction to the proportions recently enjoined on the British public.

#### OBITUARY.

##### MR. JONATHAN SAMUEL, M.P.

LONDON, February 27th.

The death is announced of Mr. Jonathan Samuel, M.P. for Stockton-on-Tees.



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Known as the

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a hot bath at bed-time and a dose of  
PINKETTES; the little gentle-as-nature laxa-  
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PINKETTES

dispel Constipation, Biliousness, torpid  
liver, sick headaches, and clear the com-  
plexion. Of Chemists, or 80 cents the  
phial, from Dr. Williams' Medicine Co.,  
88, Szechuen Road, Shanghai.

[81-82]

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

TODAY

11.45 A.M.—Hongkong Race—3rd Day.

Saturday, 3rd March—  
2 P.M.—Hongkong Race—Off Day.

Wednesday, 7th March—  
7.15 P.M.—New Bandman Opera Co., at the  
Theatre Royal, "High Jinks".  
Thursday, 8th and 9th March—  
Flower and Vegetable Show in the Botanical  
Gardens.

Saturday, 10th March—  
11.30 A.M.—Hongkong Rope Manufacturing  
Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders.  
12.30 P.M.—Hongkong and South China  
Steam Fisheries Co., Ltd., General Meeting  
at the Office of the Liquidators New  
Government Building.

"ASAHI BEER."



DAI NIPPON  
BREWERY CO. TOKYO.

SOLE AGENTS:  
MITSU BUSSAN KAISHA,  
TEL. No. 230 or 155.

FARM WOMEN.

PREJUDICE AND PROGRESS

There is a species of Man which does  
not like Woman. It is confined at pre-  
sent to farmers.

This is what they have against woman.  
She is expensive. She does not like getting up early.  
She does not believe edw want milking  
on Sunday.

She is no good with horses.  
She cannot stand about in wet clover.  
She cannot plough.  
She has to be taught to work on the  
land.

She needs a proper home.  
Labourers will not work with her.

The Farmer's Boy is evidently following  
in the footsteps of his master, for he does  
not like women either. He will not work  
with them. Certainly he has a little rea-  
son for his dislike. Women workers come  
and do the lighter jobs which were form-  
erly to him the only relief from the heavy  
work.

He also thinks the war will soon be over  
and he is not going to encourage compe-  
titors in petticoats. With his master's  
opinion. School-boys' sweethearts are  
superior to women. He fully agrees. But  
he is beginning to be a little doubtful of  
his master. Did not Farmer Xiang twelve  
months ago that he would not have a  
woman at any price? And has not he  
got ten now and boasting of it?

Can it be that women are "getting  
over" the farmer as they have done over  
every other man since Adam ate the apple?  
The Farmer's Boy himself put up  
with two women on the farm, but then  
they are "exceptions," they can do a  
day's work and "stick" the bad weather.  
Every woman who proves her worth on the  
land is an "exception" to every Farmer's  
Boy.

His doubt as to the farmer is to be ex-  
plained in this way. Farmers are of  
three kinds. There is the man who has  
said his last word on women, that he is  
not good—so far as work on the land is con-  
cerned. He would rather—and does let  
his land go out of cultivation than employ  
women. His objection to women on the  
land is a principle, and he intends to  
abide by it, Government or no Govern-  
ment.

The second man sits on the fence watch-  
ing. "I can size up the masculine gender  
in two minutes," he confesses, "but the  
feminine has taken me a week. I have  
watched the woman from a biased point  
of view, being completely against her, but  
after a week I've come to the conclusion  
that she'll do good work on the land and  
what's more, will make money at it."

The third man is the progressive farm-  
er. He was interested to see what women  
could do on the land. In his heart of  
hearts he really likes women, although it  
is the gospel of his kind to keep them off  
the land. He is not really sorry to engage  
them, and he very soon becomes proud of  
their work.

Other farmers who have no conscientious  
objections to women do not, however,  
give in as easily as he has done. They  
prefer boys to women, even when the  
worth of the latter has been demonstrated.  
Boys can be hired for 45c. per week.  
Women set too high a value on them-  
selves; they are "too well off for milking."

In this perhaps they are right.  
Some women's organisers think 85c. a  
milking, with no other work promised,  
too little for women to bring them to the  
country. Others cannot persuade farmers to  
give more than 45c. a milking.

No wonder the farmer has a grudge  
against woman. She is turning up her  
nose at his prices and teaching the farmer's  
boy to be "sassy." In fact farmers  
are complaining that the men who are left  
are irregular and inefficient, and  
they are afraid to say a word to them in  
case they give notice. And while the  
farmer is trying to swallow his prejudice  
against woman she is turning her back  
upon him. Munition factories set up  
near to his land eagerly snap up the  
labour he despised, and by and by he  
finds that even if he advertises 45c. per  
day wages he cannot get the women whom  
once he would not have at any price.

It is a very sore point that the farmer  
trained two girls to milk and they are  
now going to munitions. Out of 300  
farms in one district 30 report a shortage  
of women. The farmer does not blame  
himself; he does not think it is his fault  
that others have been more appreciative.  
He blames Sunday work and the unrea-  
sonableness of woman. She wants Satur-  
day afternoons and Sundays clear—cows  
and horses and other animals must look  
after themselves over the week-end, he  
supposes.

Now, unless someone can persuade the  
woman worker that the farmer really  
likes her very much and wants her more,  
it will be very serious for the country.  
These are the kind of reports farmers all  
over the country are sending in to the Em-  
ployment Department of the Board of  
Trade.

Fancy three of us on 316 acres, with  
210 sheep, 63 head of cattle, and 21  
horses! What a farce to call it farm-  
ing!

(Continued at foot of next column.)

SATIN FOR SANDBAGS.

HUN REIGN OF ROBBERY IN  
LILLE.

A prominent trader who through age  
and sickness was allowed to leave Lille  
just before Christmas has arrived in  
Paris, and gives examples of the barbar-  
ous practices of which the inhabitants are  
the victims.

In 1915 the Germans exacted a tribute  
of 270,000, which the municipality re-  
fused to pay. Whereupon the Germans  
went to the municipal vaults and opened  
the safes with blowpipes in approved  
burglar style. Two motor-cars were re-  
quired to remove the bulion stolen from  
the city's coffers.

When the people were ordered to supply  
an enormous number of sandbags they re-  
plied that it was impossible. "All right,"  
said the Governor, "we will make them  
themselves." Hun soldiers then seized every  
kind of material, even satin and silks, in  
the shops and warehouses and exported  
them to Germany, where the sacks were  
made, and the city had to pay the bill.

Some shops have had their entire stocks  
taken in return for requisition notes.  
The Germans do not find what they  
want they take anything they please.  
A few objects, for instance, have raised  
the price of the employment of joiners on work-  
which previously had been strictly re-  
served for shipwrights. On the other  
hand, frequent conflict has arisen between  
plumbers and engineers.

Between these trades there are agree-  
ments of long standing, made after many  
years of strife, by which certain work  
is apportioned to certain trades. The  
respective trade unions, not from want of  
patriotism, but from want of confidence  
in one another, have been slow to pull  
down these barriers. They do not fear  
any immediate results, for the trades  
are all rated at about the same wage,  
and, in any case, the employer is under  
an obligation to give whichever man  
does any given job the rates customarily  
paid for that job. What they do fear is  
that, if they now allow outsiders to do  
what they regard as their own work, a  
precedent will be set up which will not  
be broken down without great difficulty  
when the war ends; and though pledges  
and undertakings and written agreements  
have been offered to reassure them on the  
point, they continue to place every ob-  
stacle in the way of a departure from  
old-established practice.

One of the first objects, therefore, of  
any scheme of organization should be  
to remove this quite intelligible opposi-  
tion to interchangeability of work be-  
tween kindred crafts. It is more deep-  
rooted, perhaps, among the rank and file  
than among the leaders of the unions,  
but the men can be reached only through  
their leaders, and it is through them that  
the efforts should be made.

I have not sown a bit of wheat, not  
having the men to go with the horses.  
Potatoes and swedes were spoiled be-  
cause they could not be got up in time.  
I have restricted sowings of wheat be-  
cause I do not know if I shall be able  
to gather them.

I have reduced the milking stock by  
25 per cent., and shall have to reduce  
by 25 per cent. more if labour gets any  
worse.

I have no one who will plough, and  
it is almost impossible to obtain men-  
tor cattle, sheep, and horses.  
I have had to dispose of 100 breeding  
sows in consequence of the calling up  
of my men on January 1st. I also have  
had to put 12 acres of arable land down  
to pasture.

Corn and root acreage has to be very  
much less.

It stands to reason that if women can  
do the work on some farms they can do  
it on others. "Women are no good for  
ploughing," is the general opinion, but  
a girl of fourteen years is learning to  
plough on a Yorkshire farm, and is doing  
very well.

"Women cannot manage horses," is  
another fallacy which has been refuted by  
the Army Remount Department. Women  
have been successfully employed in this  
Department for months.

The fact that women are actually em-  
ployed by the following farm occupations  
proves that they could be more generally  
engaged—

- (1)—General Farm Work: Cleaning  
land, stone picking, weeding,  
thistle cutting, manure spread-  
ing, singling and hoeing turnips,  
potato setting and lifting, veget-  
able planting and transplanting.
- (2)—Milking.
- (3)—Stock tending and rearing.
- (4)—Bark making.
- (5)—Cheese making.
- (6)—Poultry rearing.
- (7)—Hay making.
- (8)—Harvesting.
- (9)—Sheep shearing.
- (10)—Thatching.
- (11)—Stacking.
- (12)—Ploughing.
- (13)—Loading and unloading.
- (14)—Threshing.
- (15)—Horn picking.
- (16)—Root stripping.
- (17)—Bark peeling.
- (18)—Timber felling.
- (19)—Gardening.
- (20)—Jobbing, Market,  
Allotments, Co-operative.

In October there were 60,500 whole-time  
women workers and 66,000 casual workers  
on the land. Close upon 140,000 women  
have registered for work. The shortage  
just now is generally for experienced  
women. Those already at work have been  
organised very largely by Women's Agri-  
cultural Committees, formed in the coun-  
ties under the auspices of the Board of  
Agriculture and the Board of Trade.  
There has been the lack of introducing  
the woman to the farmer.

Now he calls her "a treasure" in writ-  
ing to the National Land Council, an  
organisation which has put some thou-  
sands of women on the land. "The high-  
ly educated girl of gentle birth between  
the ages of 18 and 30 needs no training,  
and a very little trouble on the part of  
the master puts her in the way of doing  
things. The great point is to curb her  
energy at first; never let her do more than  
three hours the first day, four the second,  
and so on. I had nine of this brand last  
summer; all were successes, and without  
them I couldn't have got through. I hope  
to have a goodly team next summer!"

What will the Farmer's Boy say now?  
FERRY BOAT in the Daily Mail.

BRITISH MERCHANT SHIPS.

CONDITIONS IN THE BUILDING  
YARDS.

For a proper understanding of the  
problem of labour organisation for ship-  
building it is important to realize the  
real nature of hindrances to the  
maximum output which spring from  
trade union rules and regula-  
tions and to pierce the mind of  
those who maintain them, says a special  
correspondent of *The Times*. Apart from  
irregular time-keeping, nothing has been  
more fruitful of trouble to shipbuilding  
employers than the rules governing  
demarcation of work between skilled  
crafts.

In spite of specific provisions in the  
Munitions Act, Treasury conferences, and  
local agreements, questions of demarca-  
tions are continually arising and impeding  
the rapid production of ships. One  
trade union disputes with another who  
should do a particular piece of work,  
and while the employer fulfils the uncon-  
fortable function of a buffer between the  
colliding forces the work suffers. Some  
trades abide loyally by their promises,  
shipwrights, for instance, have raised  
few objections since the early days of the  
war to the employment of joiners on work-  
which previously had been strictly re-  
served for shipwrights. On the other  
hand, frequent conflict has arisen between  
plumbers and engineers.

Between these trades there are agree-  
ments of long standing, made after many  
years of strife, by which certain work  
is apportioned to certain trades. The  
respective trade unions, not from want of  
patriotism, but from want of confidence  
in one another, have been slow to pull  
down these barriers. They do not fear  
any immediate results, for the trades  
are all rated at about the same wage,  
and, in any case, the employer is under  
an obligation to give whichever man  
does any given job the rates customarily  
paid for that job. What they do fear is  
that, if they now allow outsiders to do  
what they regard as their own work, a  
precedent will be set up which will not  
be broken down without great difficulty  
when the war ends; and though pledges  
and undertakings and written agreements  
have been offered to reassure them on the  
point, they continue to place every ob-  
stacle in the way of a departure from  
old-established practice.

One of the first objects, therefore, of  
any scheme of organization should be  
to remove this quite intelligible opposi-  
tion to interchangeability of work be-  
tween kindred crafts. It is more deep-  
rooted, perhaps, among the rank and file  
than among the leaders of the unions,  
but the men can be reached only through  
their leaders, and it is through them that  
the efforts should be made.

EXCLUSION OF WOMEN.

The same distrust of the future retards  
the extension of the policy of dilution by  
semi-skilled or unskilled labour. The  
skilled trades, and especially the most  
highly skilled, are jealous of the intru-  
sion of anybody who has not "served his  
time" and they hedge themselves around  
with conditions which have the effect, if  
not the object, of restricting the process.  
For instance, the employer is not regard-  
ed as entitled to dilute so long as there  
is anywhere in the country a member  
of the union involved who is without  
employment. While the country is being  
scoured for that man there may be dozens  
of men available—fitters, labourers,  
platers, helpers, and others—who are  
technically semi-skilled, but in practice  
often as skilled as the men alongside  
whom they labour, and who could well  
be employed to do fitters' or platers'  
work.

Again by agreement with the Amal-  
gamated Society of Engineers, a woman  
may be employed to do certain parts of  
the work hitherto done by a skilled man;  
but even if her task is only that of  
screwing nuts on bolts she must be paid  
a certain rate of wages, increasing by  
regular amounts until at the end of 13  
weeks she is receiving the full rate for a  
skilled engineer. When it is remem-  
bered that an engineer's apprentice has  
to work for five years at the trade before  
he earns the fully-skilled mechanic's  
rate, and that, however keen and  
anxious a woman may be, her output is  
not equal to that of the fully-skilled  
mechanic, it is scarcely surprising that  
women have not been employed as freely  
as they might be to take out really skilled  
and experienced labour in the ship-  
yards.

Much of the work, it is true, is too  
heavy and rough for women, and the  
difficulty of supervision is considerable;  
but there are some simple machines—  
screwing machines and certain types of  
boying machines, for example, which could  
be operated by women. What can be done  
in this direction has been demonstrated  
on the Clyde, where 15,000 women have  
been introduced as diluted labour into  
the shipyard and engineering establish-  
ments in spite of unsettled left by  
serious strikes among the men. More  
could be done if the Admiralty would  
issue definite and over-arching in-  
structions to their overseers in the ship-  
yard areas to apply the existing local  
agreements to merchant ship construction,  
and to push forward the dilution schemes  
with all possible vigour.

In connection with speeded operations and machines,  
the absence of effective local effort is as  
grave an obstruction to efficient organi-  
zation as the anxiety of the workmen  
to keep the door open for those of their  
fellows who will come back from the  
war.

Official inertia is in part responsible  
for another great hindrance to increased  
output—irregular time-keeping. All the  
information which can be obtained as to  
the extent of this evil goes to show that,  
on a balance between overtime and lost  
time, the shipyard operatives generally  
are not working many actual hours more  
than in the days before the war. Some of  
the men are working much harder. The  
sickness and death rates shown by the  
trade union benefit accounts are evidence  
of the strain which some of their members

have undergone; in at least one ship-  
yard workers' union the rates for the  
last few years have been the highest for  
a quarter of a century. But many of  
the men are working as hard as in pre-  
war times, and the evil tends to become  
more aggravated.

DRINK AND HIGH EARNINGS.

When it comes to an investigation of  
the causes of bad time-keeping, prejudice  
must be put on one side. Drink is un-  
doubtedly a factor in the problem, but  
it is certainly not the only factor, and  
it is probably not the most important.  
Whatever may have been the case before  
the Central Control Board got its grip  
on the liquor trade, drunkenness is not  
noticeably more prevalent among ship-  
yard employees to-day than among other  
classes of manual workers. It is a note-  
worthy fact that, owing to the restricted  
facilities for drinking, the number of  
cases before the magistrates in Glasgow  
and Newcastle on the second day of the  
New Year was insignificant; and that  
in spite of the holidays in the ship-  
yards.

The primary cause of bad time-keeping,  
in the view of close observers, is the high  
level of earnings in certain trades. Men  
belonging to the "black squad"—bol-  
makers, riveters, caulkers, and platers  
—and that is piece workers they can earn  
all they need by working only three  
or four days a week, and they see no  
reason why they should work on the  
other days. Some of them, indeed, will  
tell you frankly that the income-tax  
supplies a good reason why they should  
not work more. In many branches of the  
shipbuilding industry workmen are com-  
plaining bitterly against the income-tax  
assessments and the refusal of the autho-  
rities to allow reasonable abatements for  
the cost of tools and travelling neces-  
sarily incurred in their daily work.  
Why, they ask, "should we work over-  
time and endanger our health if the  
Government takes our earnings in taxa-  
tion?" At least one important union  
has sent a strong protest and warning  
to the Board of Inland Revenue. When  
men are in this frame of mind, even the  
total prohibition of the sale of drink  
would not prevent them from abstaining  
from work after they had earned suf-  
ficient to keep them and their families  
fed and clothed and housed.

Another factor in time losing is the  
exhausting character of the work in some  
cases. Few men could work week in,  
week out, if they had to deal with, say,  
one-inch or one-and-a-quarter-inch rivets.  
Finally, the scarcity of skilled labour  
with the consequent safety from displace-  
ment destroys the chief incentive which  
a man has in normal times to attend  
regularly at this place of employment.  
Taking these considerations together, it  
may at any rate be argued that, even if  
there were no public houses the workmen  
would continue to spend elsewhere, pos-  
sibly on whippet racing, bowling, or some  
other form of sport or recreation, some  
part of what should be their working  
week.

The remedy for broken time, in so far  
as it is due to sheer laziness or self-indul-  
gence—and it must be understood that  
this charge is directed not against the  
workmen as a class, but against a certain  
minority among them—is, first, a reprimand  
to each individual offender, and,  
secondly, a prompt punishment for those  
who persist in offending. The trade  
union leaders contend that the proper  
course for employers to take is to  
bring complaints to the union and allow  
it to deal in its own way with its own  
members. Occasionally this has been  
done; the men concerned have been  
penalized by fine or suspension of benefit,  
and the employers have been satisfied.  
Such cases, however, have been few, and  
the union officials base on that fact the  
assertion that if time is unnecessarily  
lost the employers themselves are to  
blame.

THE EMPLOYERS' DEFENCE.

The employers, on the other hand,  
place the responsibility on the shoulders  
of the Government. The rules by which  
they are bound, they argue, were im-  
posed on them by the Government, and it  
is unfair that the Government should  
look chiefly to them to initiate pro-  
secutions against men. "You cannot  
penalize your workmen," said one of  
them to the writer, "and then expect to  
get the best out of them. If we take  
action and bring men before the Munitions  
Tribunal, the only result is the en-  
gendering of ill-feeling between us and  
our employees." Moreover, "we cannot  
spare our staff and time to present cases  
before tribunals. The Ministry of Munitions  
should undertake the prosecution, so  
that the personal element may not  
enter. In one or two cases the Depart-  
ment has taken action, but it took weeks  
to prepare its case, and by the time it  
was decided the moral effect had been  
practically lost."

It may be that there is something to  
be said for both these suggestions. There  
does not appear to be any good reason  
why employers should not avail them-  
selves more fully of the offer which many  
of the trade union leaders have made to  
investigate and deal with alleged cases  
of preventable time-losing or deliberate  
time-ribbing. Nor does there seem to  
be any ground for laxity or dilatoriness  
on the part of the Government in bring-  
ing bad cases to justice. Whether reform  
lies in the one direction or the other or  
in both, the present state of affairs cannot  
be allowed to continue.

Last time, properly regarded, is only  
one of the results of the policy of drift  
which brought down the late Government.  
If it cannot be completely checked, it  
can be greatly reduced by a sound policy  
administered locally with firmness and  
vigour. The preparation and prompt en-  
forcement of that policy are long overdue.  
There are ships vacant in shipyards on  
which merchant ships could be laid down;  
there are partly constructed ships on which  
no work at all is being done; there are  
other ships which are being built so slowly  
that their completion is out of sight; and  
meanwhile the enemy is taking toll daily  
of our ships at sea. Those who realize  
these facts look with hope to the new  
Government.



(Continued at foot of next Column.)

England makes no war upon the dead. There will be friendship as well as peace with Germany whenever German is dead to the crimes of the past—but not

So the fighting became more widened to a greater length of front. The Germans worked up to a real "strafe." Our guns were bombarding along a line of something like two miles, ploughing up trenches already laid low, and flinging high explosives upon the rising ground whence on quiet days German eyes could see through slit in the earth, stared down upon any movement in our lines.

**DEVELOPED WITHOUT RESPIRE.**

These are the facts of the fighting. Behind the facts is the spirit of British soldiers, who in spite of great hardship in foul weather and in foul places—where there is the swamps of crater-land—have not weakened, nor lost the grim, hard spirit which has come to them as fighting men.

And behind this infantry, lying close and hidden in the web earth until they rise and go forward to attack, and then get down into the mud again so that nothing is seen of them, are the masked guns, which deliver their deadly blows at night, and continue their work of destruction until the enemy falls, or until they are silenced, or taking all of his strength and wearing down his spirit. In this winter warfare the most serious foe was the enemy.

(b)(1)

Highest open-air Temperature on 25 h	63
Lowest open-air Temperature on 27 h	63

	6 33	6 2	m 11 49	3
Mon	5 m 2 51	4 2	m 1 40	1
	7 33	0 4	0 40	3
Tues	6 m 8 3	4 4	m 2 5	1

Highest open-air Temperature on 25'h	68
Lowest open-air Temperature on 27'h	61







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HAIPHONG	"SUNGKIANG"	On 28th Feb. 1 P.M.
MANILA, CEBU & ILOILO	"KUBIKOW"	On 28th Feb. Noon.
AMOI and SHANGHAI	"TAMSI"	On 1st Mar. 11 P.M.
SHANGHAI	"SINKIANG"	On 1st Mar. 4 P.M.
MANILA, CEBU & ILOILO	"CHINHUA"	On 1st Mar. Noon.

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HAITAN	...   Capt. A. E. Hodgins	...   TUESDAY, 6th Mar., at 11 A.M.

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to COLOMBO	Leave Hong Kong	via from COLOMBO	1917	1917

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	about	about	if calling about	about
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NAGOYA and YOKOHAMA		

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NAGASAKI, KOBE and YOKOHAMA	FUSHIMI MARU	THURSDAY, 15th Mar., at 11 A.M.
SHANGHAI, KOBE and YOKOHAMA	HIRO MARU	TUESDAY, 20th Mar., at 11 A.M.

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NIPPON	11,000 — 15 knots	SATUR., 24th Mar.
SHINYO MARU	22,000 — 21 knots	MON., 2nd April
FERSIA MARU	9,000 — 14 knots	MON., 16th April
KORBA MARU	18,000 — 18 knots	SATUR., 28th April
ESIBERIA MARU	18,000 — 18 knots	SATUR., 12th May

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